

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region**

Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period

for

Draft Order No. R1-2020-0021

Short-Term Renewal of Order No. R1-2015-0021

**Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
for
Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to
Certain Federal Land Management Activities
On National Forest System Lands
in the
North Coast Region**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the above-referenced Draft Order on August 20 or 21, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at the Regional Water Board's office in Sonoma County, or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda and on its website: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>. The public review and comment period for the Draft Order is **May 1 through June 1, 2020**.

The Draft Order provides a short-term renewal of the *Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Federal Land Management Activities on National Forest System Lands in the North Coast Region*, Order No. R1-2015-0021 (Federal Waiver). The intent of this short-term renewal of the Federal Waiver is to allow continued use of the Federal Waiver while Regional Water Board staff continue to develop a new permit and supporting California Environmental Quality Act document for certain nonpoint source activities on federal lands (Federal Lands Permit). At the hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the Draft Order, or take other action.

Draft Order Available for Review and Comment

Comments must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2020** to Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov or at the following address:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Devon Jorgenson
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Only comments related to the Draft Order will be responded to during this comment period. Comments on the future Federal Lands Permit will be accepted when the draft Federal Lands Permit is submitted for public review.

Document Availability

Information on the Regional Water Board's Draft Order can be found at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/ or may be viewed during public hours in person at the Regional Water Board's office listed above. Please note that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and while the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 remains in effect, review of the Draft Order at the Regional Water Board office is available by appointment only. Please call (707) 576-2220 or email Northcoast@waterboards.ca.gov to schedule an appointment or refer to the webpage listed below for updates on the status of the Regional Water Board office.

Persons wishing to receive additional notices related to the Draft Order must subscribe to the respective email list by clicking "Subscribe" in the top right corner of the banner on the Regional Water Board's main web page at <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>.

Public Hearing Procedures

The procedures governing the Regional Water Board's meetings may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. The Discharger and interested persons must submit to the Regional Water Board office written copies of all legal argument, technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue by the deadline listed above.

Written material received after June 1, 2020, will not be accepted except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair. Untimely written material will not be accepted or incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party or the Regional Water Board. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 648.1 & 648.4).

During the pendency of this proceeding, there shall be no ex parte communications between Regional Water Board members and participants. This includes communications on substantive matters or controversial procedural matters. (Gov. Code, §§ 11430.10-11430.80.)

The time limits for oral testimony or comments at the public hearing will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. All speakers are expected to honor these time limits. A timer may be used, and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Accessibility

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact Patti Corsie at 707-576-2220 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929 or voice line at 800-735-2922.

Staff Contact

Questions regarding the Draft Order should be directed to Devon Jorgenson, by phone at 707-576-2701 or email at Devon.Jorgenson@waterboards.ca.gov.

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